

Potential Impact of House and Senate Cost Containment Bills on the HCQCC

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By Ann Hwang



Massachusetts Health Care Quality and Cost Council

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Legislative Update

- In recent weeks, the House and Senate have each released cost containment bills
- Both bills propose significant changes to the governance of cost containment and delivery reform initiatives
- Both bills eliminate the HCQCC and assign HCQCC functions to newly created public entities



HCQCC functions: M.G.L. Chapter 6A, Section 16K

- The council shall promote public transparency of the quality and cost of health care in the commonwealth, and shall seek to support the long-term sustainability of health care reform in the commonwealth by developing recommendations for containing health care costs, while facilitating access to information on health care quality improvement efforts.

The council shall:

- Disseminate health care quality and cost data to consumers, health care providers and insurers through a consumer health information website...
- Establish cost containment goals; and
- coordinate ongoing quality improvement initiatives



H.4070

- Repeals the HCQCC
- Creates a “Division of Health Care Cost and Quality”
 - Established as an independent public entity, governed by a board
 - New “Division” assigned numerous functions relating to health care costs and quality
- Reorganizes the functions of a number of agencies and organizations including DHCFP, the Office of Patient Protection, health IT functions, and the QCC



H.4070

- Many activities related to the function of the HCQCC are assigned to the new “Division,” e.g.:
 - Establish and maintain a consumer health information website” ... that “contain[s] information comparing the quality and cost of health care services ...”
 - Establish and monitor goals and benchmarks for reducing health care costs, improving the quality of the health care system and increasing access to care in the commonwealth
 - Establish the standard quality measure set to be used in the evaluation of the performance of all providers



S.2260

- Repeals the HCQCC
- Creates two related bodies:
 - Institute of Health Care Finance and Policy, an independent state agency
 - Commonwealth Health Care Quality and Finance Authority, an independent public entity
 - Authority has a governing board as well as an advisory board
- Reorganizes DHCFP as the “Institute”
- Re-aligns many other responsibilities of agencies and organizations



S.2260

- QCC functions transferred to the new “Institute,” in some cases, working in consultation with the new Authority
- “Authority” tasked with setting cost containment goals



Summary: Impact on QCC

- Both proposals realign the responsibilities of a number of state agencies and organizations, and would eliminate the QCC in its current form and transfer its roles to new entities
- EOHHS staff are closely following legislative developments
- EOHHS is continuing the work of the QCC until/unless directed to do otherwise by new statute
- EOHHS appreciates the on-going work of the Council during this period of uncertainty

